



Education & Families

James McParland
Chief Officer – Education (South)
Civic Centre,
Windmillhill Street
Motherwell ML1 1AB
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25th March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you on forthcoming changes to the leadership arrangements at Cathedral Primary School.

Following a recent inspection by Education Scotland, Cathedral Primary School received an excellent report recognising the strong practice across the school. To enable the Local Authority to build on this success and share the good practice identified by inspectors across North Lanarkshire, Mr Young will begin a temporary secondment to North Lanarkshire Council's central education team. This secondment will run from 1st April 2026 until June 2027.

Mr Young currently carries out national development work for two days each week with the national Centre for Teaching Excellence. He will now spend the remaining three days working with North Lanarkshire's central education team to support improvement activity across the authority.

During his secondment, Mr Young will work with schools across the authority to support developments in teaching and learning, inclusive practice, and leadership. This is a fantastic opportunity for Mr Young to share nationally recognised best practice for the benefit of children and young people across schools within the authority.

To ensure continuity for the Cathedral Primary School community during Mr Young's secondment, we have considered the arrangements carefully, and I am pleased to confirm that Mrs Duffy will now move from her two-day Acting Head Teacher role to taking on the position full-time. This arrangement will ensure stability for pupils, staff and families. Mrs J. Barclay, the Education and Families Manager linked to the school, will continue to work closely with Mrs Duffy to support a smooth transition and to ensure the school receives its full staffing entitlement.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Young for his dedication and commitment to Cathedral Primary School and Nursery Class, and to wish him every success in his new role. I would also like to express sincere thanks to Mrs Duffy and the entire staff team for their continued hard work and commitment to the whole Cathedral Primary School and Nursery Class community.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James McParland", with a horizontal line underneath.

James McParland
Chief Officer – Education (South)